Development Fund include sanctioning of 10 capacity building phase projects covering and area of 835 ha. and involving Rs. 46.61 lakhs in selected 5 districts of Andhra Pradesh. The covered districts are (i) Karimnagar (ii) Chittoor (iii) Medak (iv) Warangal and (v) Srikakulam. Funds will be released on completion of initial activities such as Shramdan for four days by the Watershed Community. These projects will cover an area of 12,200 ha. during the full implementation phase.

Drought related deaths in Rajasthan

631. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will be Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the drought related deaths in the drought affected areas in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, what is the outcome of the study, if any, made by Centre in this regard;

(c) what is the quantity of foodgrains provided by the Centre for drought affected areas in Rajasthan as against the demand made by the State Government;

(d) what are the reasons for short supply of foodgrains, if any; and

(e) what steps have been taken by Government to meet the requirement of foodgrains in drought affected areas in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) No report on deaths due to drought has been received from the Government of Rajasthan.

(c) to (e) Taking into account the requirement and norms, 5.68 lakh MTs. of wheat have been allocated free of cost to Rajasthan under Food for Work Programme. The validity of lifting has been extended upto 30th September, 2001. In addition, 2.53 lakh MTs. of wheat at Below Poverty Line (BPL) rates have been allocated. Also, additional 1.24 lakh Mts. of wheat at BPL rates have been allocated to the State for distribution to the drought affected families (both BPL and Above Poverty Line) @ 7 20 Kg. per family per month for a period of three months.

Bank guarantee to NAFED for procuring Chillies

632. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has urged to arrange for bank guarantee to NAFED for commercial purchase of chillies in the State; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Centre to persuade NAFED to intervene in the market for purchase, to help the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir. However, a request had been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh to arrange for bank guarantee to NAFED to undertake procurement of chillies under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS).

(b) NAFED was directed to procure chillies as per the terms and conditions approved by this Department.

Motivating farmers for non-traditional Crops

†633. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been formulated by Government to motivate the farmers for producing non-traditional crops;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government would consider to introduce such a scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) There is no proposal to introduce such a scheme.

Expenditure on research and analysis in agriculture sector

†634. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it is necessary to enhance the present expenditure on research and analysis in the agricultural sector, with a view to achieve four percent annual growth rate in that sector, during the coming years;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard; and

(c) the percentage of funds decided to be increased by Government?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.